

Message Text

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44

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4197

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SUBJ: NORWEGIAN ATTITUDES ON SPAIN AND NATO

REFS: (A) OSLO 1906

(B) OSLO 1901

1. NORWAY'S ACTIVE GALLUP POLL INSTITUTE HAS IDENTIFIED
SPAIN AS A HIGH PROFILE ISSUE WITH BROAD PUBLIC INTEREST
AND DECIDED IN AUG 75 TO CONDUCT A POLL ON

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SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. THE RESULTS OF THE POLL,

PUBLISHED SEP 20, MERIT ANALYSIS, AND
COMPARISON TO THE ONLY OTHER GALLUP INSTITUTE POLL ON
SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WHICH WAS CONDUCTED IN
1959. TOTAL FIGURES FOR ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN THIS
YEAR'S POLL SHOW 39PERCENT IN FAVOR OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP
IN NATO,39PERCENT OPPOSED AND 22PERCENT IN THE "NO OPINION"
CATEGORY. FIGURES FROM THE 1959 POLL WERE 27PERCENT IN
FAVOR,24PERCENT OPPOSED AND 22PERCENT "DON'T KNOW".

2. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILED FIGURES FOR BOTH POLLS
BROKEN DOWN BY POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION:

	LABOR	COMMUNISTS	SOCIALIST	LIBERALS	
		LEFT	AND OTHERS		
	1959	1975	1959	1975	1959 1975
IN FAVOR	27	38	11	22	23 38
OPPOSED	27	45	63	72	27 44
DON'T KNOW	46	17	26	6	50 18

	CONSERVATIVE	CHRISTIAN	CENTER PARTY	
	PEOPLES PARTY			
	1959	1975	1959	1975
IN FAVOR	42	52	21	41
OPPOSED	21	33	22	36
DON'T KNOW	37	15	57	23

3. TODAY, AS IN 1959, THE SPANISH ISSUE IS SPLIT ALONG
SOCIALIST VS NON-SOCIALIST LINES ALTHOUGH THE LARGE
DROP IN THE "DON'T KNOW CATEGORY--49PERCENT TO
25PERCENT--TESTIFIES TO THE INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS
IN NORWAY OF SPAIN AS A POLITICAL QUESTION RATHER THAN
SPAIN AS A VACATION SPOT.

4. THE APPARENT SIZEABLE SUPPORT FOR SPAIN,HOWEVER,
MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN WIDER NORWEGIAN POLITICAL CONTEXT,
AND NO CHANGES IN PRESENT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY CAN BE EXPECTED
AT THIS TIME. NORWEGIAN FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES ARE BASED ON
BROAD PUBLIC POLITICAL SUPPORT,BOTH SOCIALIST AND NON-
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SOCIALIST. WHEN THE NON-SOCIALISTS HELD POWER IN THE
LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S THEY DID NOT INITIATE
FUNDAMENTAL NEW DIRECTIONS IN NORWEGIAN POLICY AND ARE
UNLIKELY TODAY,AS THE OPPOSITION,TO RAISE ISSUES
THAT WOULD ALIENATE THE RULING LABOR PARTY ON DEFENSE
ISSUES OR PROVOKE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL NATIONAL DEBATE.
MOREOVER, ALL NORWEGIAN POLITICIANS RECALL WITH HORROR
THE DIVISIVENESS OF THE 1972 DEBATE OVER MEMBERSHIP

IN THE COMMON MARKET.

5. WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION TO FRANCO AND DICTATORIAL REGIMES HAVE AGAIN RAISED THIS ISSUE TO A HIGH EMOTIONAL PITCH IN NORWAY; MANY "LOYALIST" VETERANS OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR ARE STILL PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL IN LABOR PARTY CIRCLES. THE DEATH SENTENCES IMPOSED IN SPAIN HAVE EVOKED AN UNUSUALLY SHARP REACTION IN NORWAY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN THE NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR FOR SOME HIGH-LEVEL HARSH WORDS, NON-SOCIALISTS ARE URGING TOURISTS TO BOYCOTT SPAIN AND CALLING FOR GOVERNMENT PROTESTS, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATION, SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NORWEGIAN SPAIN COMMITTEE, URGED MOBILIZATION OF WORLD OPINION AGAINST THE EVENTS IN SPAIN WHILE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PUSH THAT COUNTRY IN A DEMOCRATIC DIRECTION THROUGH ECONOMIC AND MORAL SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION GROUPS. SIX POLITICAL PARTY YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (INCLUDING NON-SOCIALISTS) HAVE ISSUED STRONG PROTESTS.

6. AS INTERNAL SPANISH DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUE TO UNFOLD RAPIDLY AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES OCCUR, NORWEGIAN POLITICIANS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEEK NEW READINGS FROM THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC AND REASSESS THEIR PRESENT POLICIES ACCORDINGLY.
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